



SENCKENBERG  
research



## 9th Conference of the Asian Society of Arachnology



**Vang Vieng • Laos**  
**10-14 November 2025**



INTHIRA GROUP

INTHIRA  
conservation & sustainability



BIOPAT

Hosted by:  
National University of Laos, Liphone Nopphaseud  
Senckenberg Research Institute, Frankfurt, Peter Jaeger

Sponsored by:  
BIOPAT e.V. (Germany)  
Inthira Group/conservation & sustainability (Laos)

## What do we want?

- Meet and discuss/exchange our research results
- Platform for young scientists to present themselves

## What do we need?

- A room, computer with screen
- Accomodation, restaurants
- Accessibility of the venue





## Conferences so far

Laos, Thailand (2x), India (2x), China (2x), Vietnam

## Other countries

Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Yemen, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Oman, East Timor, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi-Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Turkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus



## ASA Conference 2025 will be different

- No conference fee! (no external financial administration/agency needed)
- Self-booking of flight, accommodation by participants (guidance provided)
- Venue, coffee breaks and on-site transportation covered by grant (BIOPAT, Germany)
- Conference Dinner sponsored by Inthira Group / conservation & sustainability (Laos)
- Midweek excursion partly in walking distance (various possibilities)
- No invited plenary talks
- No extra website (ASA via Nicky Bay will post all information)
- No printed abstract book or congress bag/T-Shirt



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?

- Avoiding parallel sessions (80 slots for talks available)
- Longer slots for talks may be offered (one per day)
- Photo competition
- Best student talks / posters / symposia





## Vangvieng

- Laos: northern Vientiane Province
- One of two major limestone regions with myriad caves (besides Khammouan)
- Connected by highway with Vientiane (since 2020), by train (since 2021)
- About 25.000 inhabitants and good infrastructure for tourists
- November = starting dry season with 44 mm (vs. 840 mm in July) and daily mean temperature 23.6°C (instead of 27.9°C in June) [also neatly timed between ACA 2024 and ICA 2026]

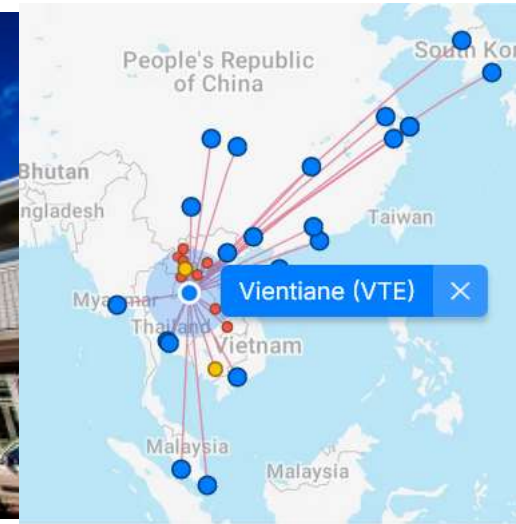
[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dat:Laos\\_on\\_the\\_globe\\_\(Southeast\\_Asia\\_centered\).svg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dat:Laos_on_the_globe_(Southeast_Asia_centered).svg)



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## Travel

- Via Wattay International Airport
- Bus via Highway (ca. 1.5h)
- Train connection from Vientiane and Kunming (check-in like in airport)
- No Visa needed for ASEAN citizens for other nationals visa on arrival available (20 US\$ for Chinese and Vietnamese; 40 US\$ for all others)
- No transport needed within Vangvieng (depending on booking of accomodation)

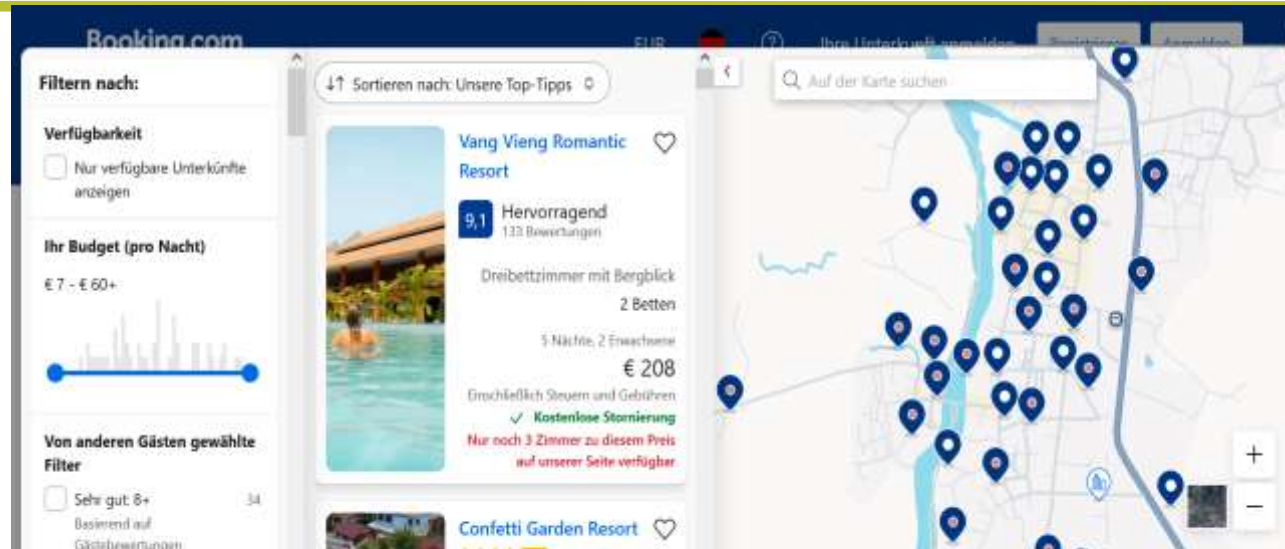




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## Vangvieng

- Many hotels/guesthouses (8-140 US\$ /double room)
- Many restaurants/bars (Lao/ Thai/ Chinese/ Indian/ European/ vegetarian ... Cuisine; meals 1-7 US\$)
- All kind of rentals (motorcycles / bicycles / e-Scooters)
- Many touristic activities (sight seeing / tubing / kayaking / hot air ballooning, buggies etc.)





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## Venue: Thavisouk Hotel

- Close to centre (100-900 m walking distance)
- Connected by two bridges
- Stunning view like in the congress logo!





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## Thavisouk Hotel

- Conference Hall for 120 persons
- Rooms available (25-35\$/double room; 45\$/triple; all rates incl. breakfast)
- No booking needed to attend the conference => students can go for lower priced accomodation via [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) or [agoda](https://www.agoda.com)





## Organising committee



Peter Jäger  
Germany



Liphone Nophaseud  
Laos



Ondrej Kosulic  
Czechia



Radek Michalko  
Czechia



Wimolwan Chotwong  
Thailand



Warbota Khum  
Cambodia



Connor Kennedy  
Great Britain



Jasmin Wohlschieß  
Germany



Johnny Souwideth  
Laos



Pedro Castanheira  
Australia



Nicky Bay  
Singapore

## Mid week opportunities

Wednesday 16.11.

1. **Tham Phou Kham** (impressive tourist cave with pool and restaurants, opportunity to swim, 6.7 km one way, cave entrance 50 elevational meters)
2. **Tham Khan** (cave with opportunity to collect in the forest, 3.5 km one way)
3. **Silver Cliff View Points** (stunning view, hiking and climbing, 500 elevational m, 5.5 km one way)
4. **Tham Chang** (tourist cave with restaurant, 1.5 km one way)
5. **Kayaking/Tubing on the Nam Soong** (river fun, individual booking incl. drive to point 10 km north of Vang Vieng; 200.000 KIP = 9 US\$)
6. **Relaxing day in Vang Vieng** (explore cafes [not caves], shops with local silken products, enjoy a massage [7 US\$/hour] or just dip into the cool water of the Nam Song)

There are more opportunities for this day: ballooning, paragliding, local weaving mills, temples, more caves, waterfalls...

Rental Motorbikes are ca. 6\$ a day plus gasoline.

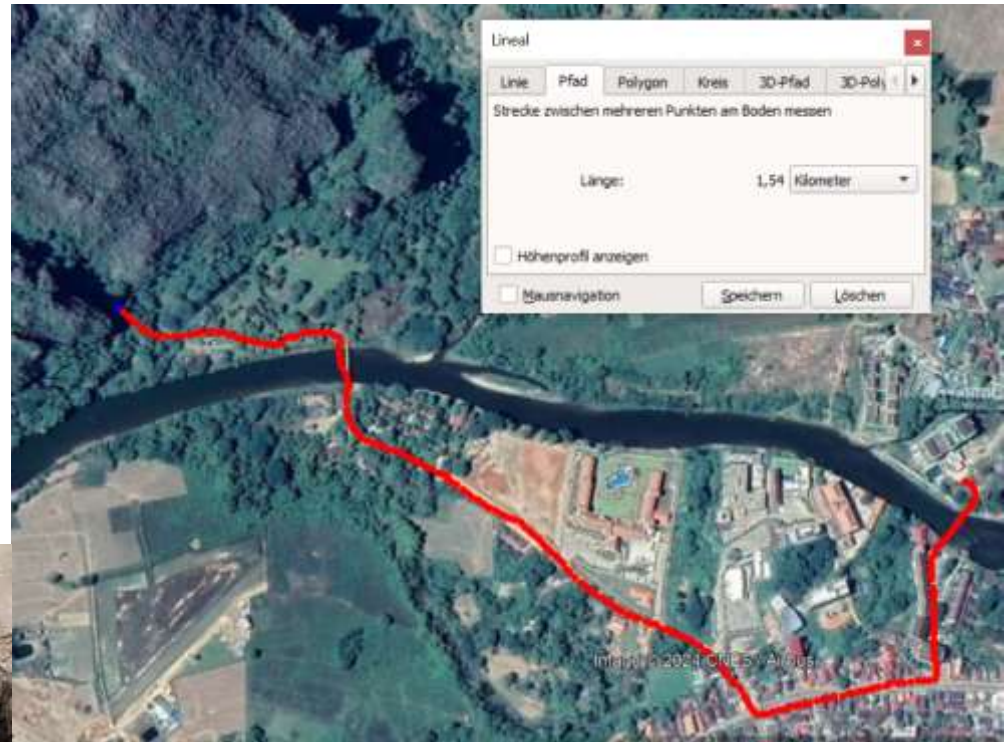
For reliable booking (also for time spent in VV or elsewhere before or after the conference): <https://www.vangviengshuttleservice.com/>



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## Tham Chang

- 1.54 km walk from venue (one way), alternatively local transport is provided
- 40 elevational metres (stairs)
- Entrance fee: 20.000 KIP
- Restaurants(?) in front of cave
- Swimming possible
- [18°54'36.04"N, 102°26'33.29"E]

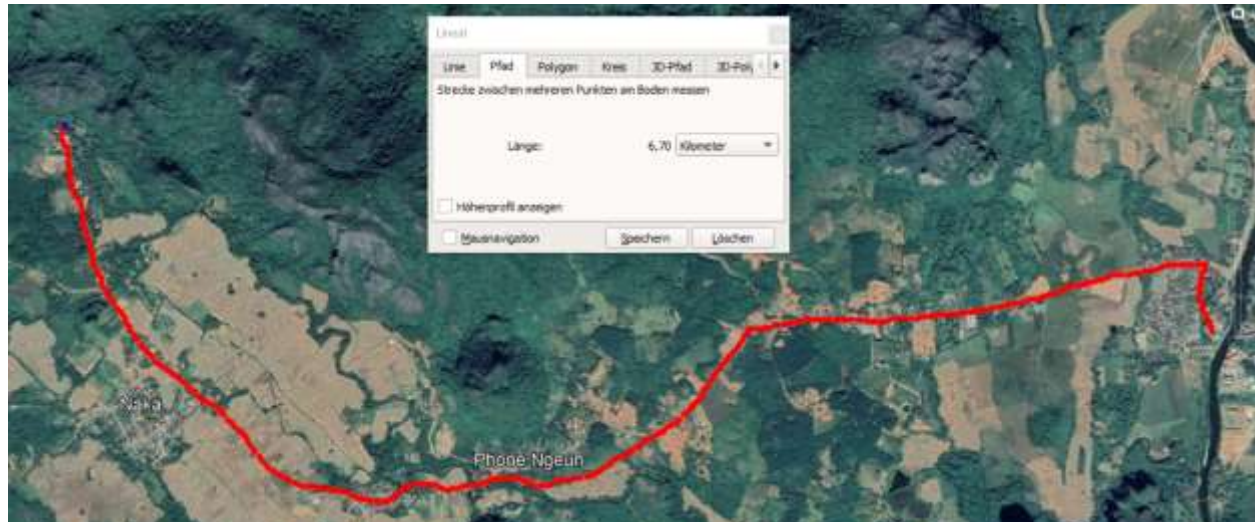




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## Tham Phoukham

- 6.7 km walk from venue (one way), alternatively local transport is provided
- 50 elevational metres (rocks)
- Entrance fee: 20.000 KIP
- Restaurants in front of cave
- Swimming possible
- [18°55'38.36"N, 102°23'44.71"E]





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## Pha Ngern Viewpoint

- 4.36 km walk from venue (one way), alternatively local transport is provided
- 520 elevational metres (rocks)
- Climbing experience needed
- Entrance fee: 20.000 KIP
- [18°55'25.25"N, 102°24'33.07"E]

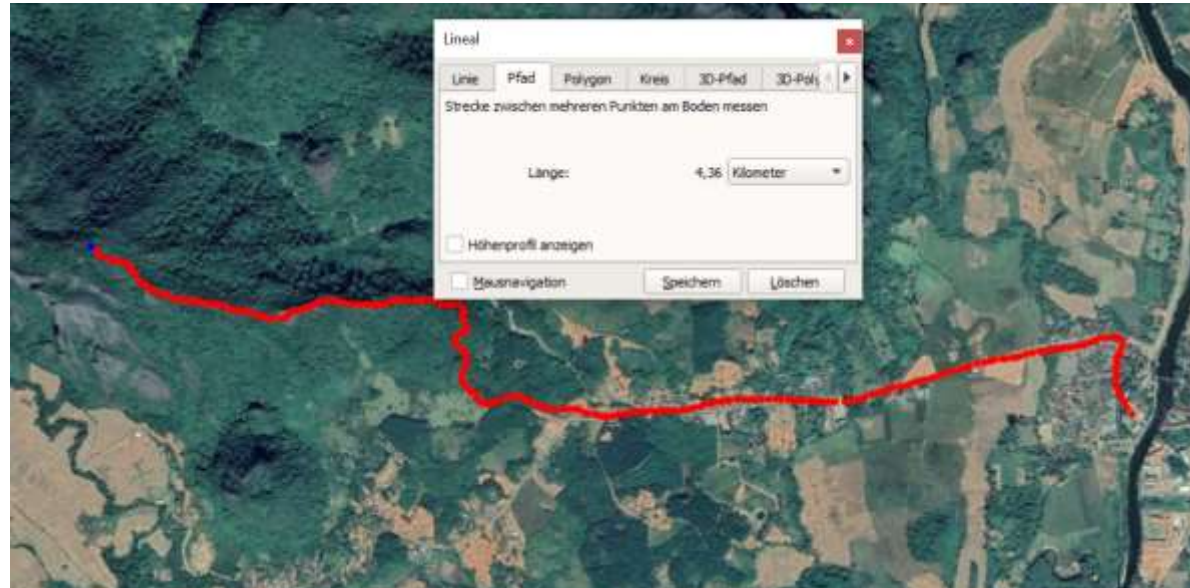


Photo: Tilmann Laufs



Photo: Sascha Packheiser



## Laos: what else to do?

- Two UNESCO world heritage sites: Luang Prabang and Wat Phou
- Bolaven Plateau with water falls, coffee plantations etc
- Trekking, Caving, etc.

Luang Prabang



Wat Phou





## Important:

- Congress is low budget
- Participants are asked for considerate planning
- Travel grants for students are not available through the BIOPAT grant  
=> information about Asian funding agencies will be made available on the ASA website

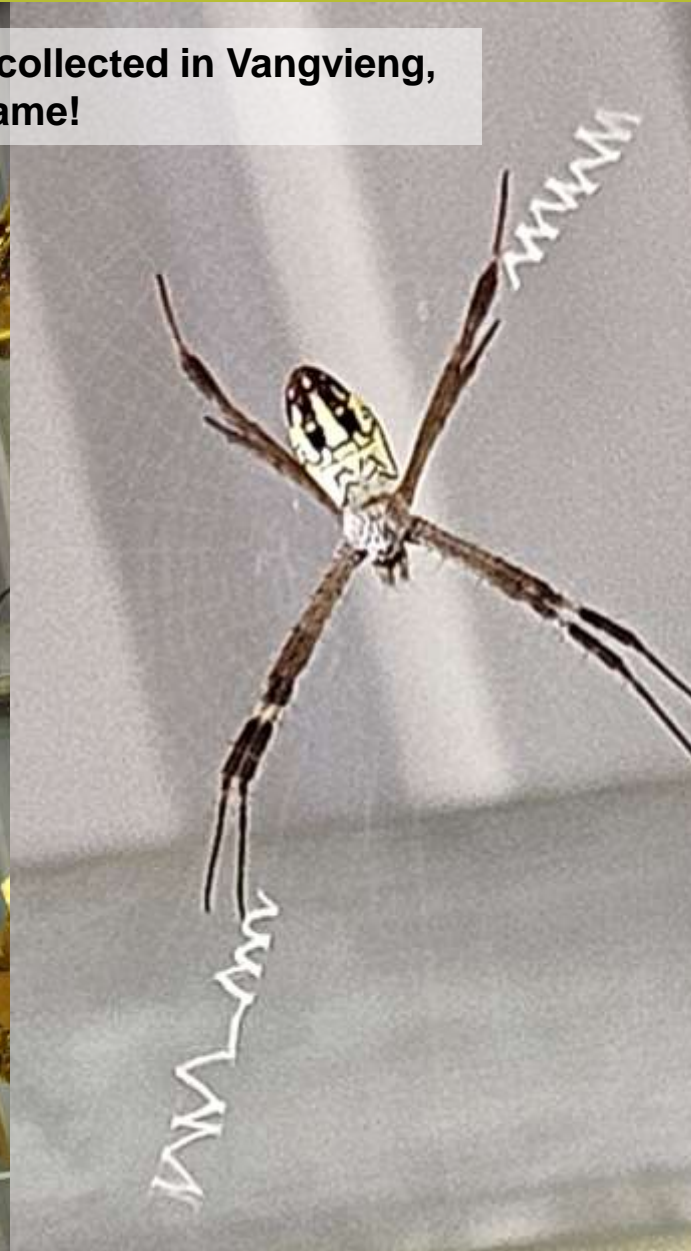
## ?

- Additional fundings? Any ideas?
- Members for Scientific Committees?
- Symposia? Workshops?



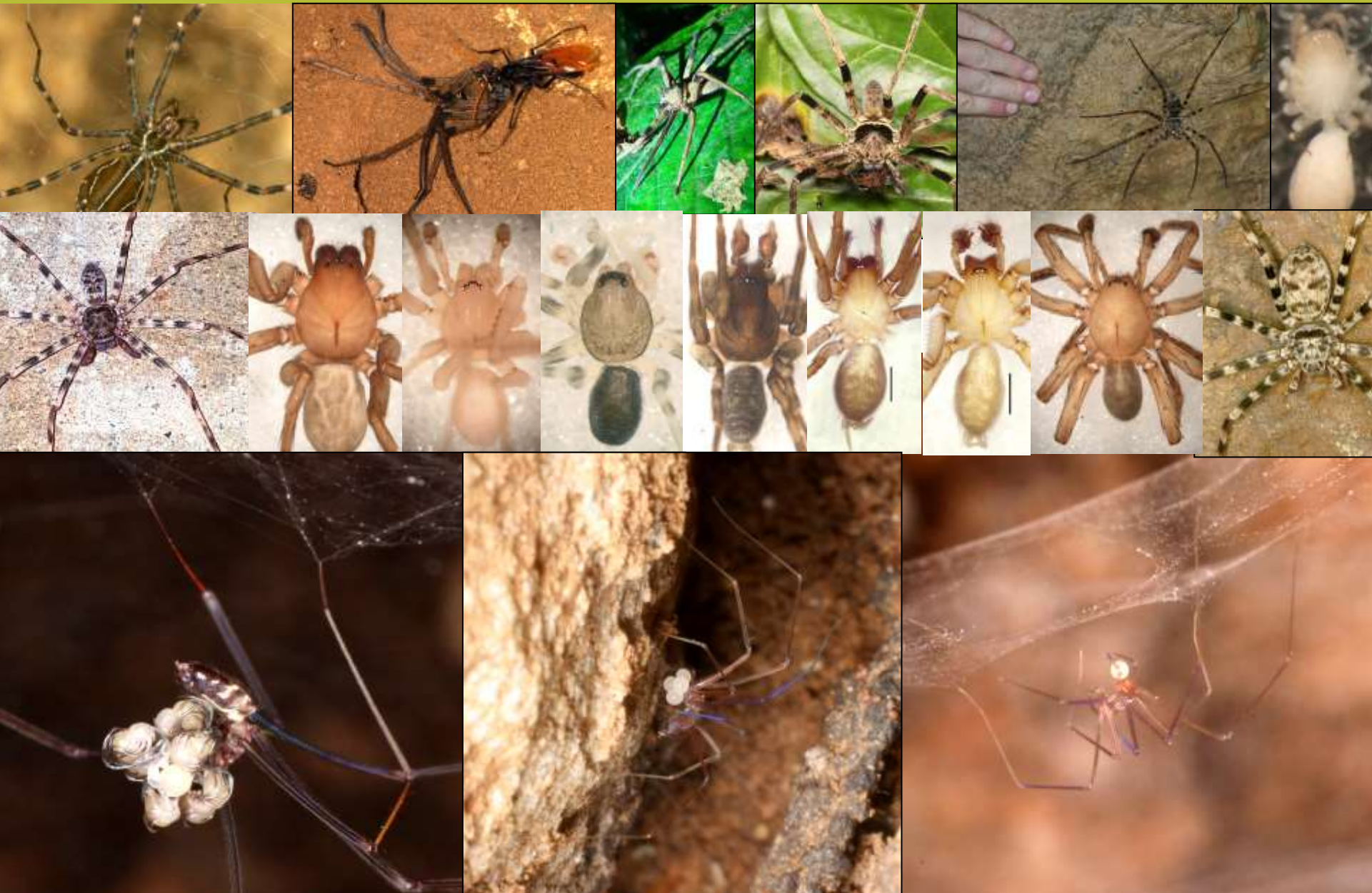
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20 years after type material of *Argiope dang* was collected in Vangvieng, the species presented itself in a golden jubilee frame!





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See you in  
Vangvieng!!

*Memorable  
moments are  
like scientific  
papers*

...

*but published  
in our hearts*



Image © 2024 CN

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